

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 NEA-10 ISO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13

EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 INT-08 CU-04 DRC-01 /219 W

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R 191330Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8758

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1605

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SL, GY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GUYANAN PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM TO SIERRA
LEONE

REF CONAKRY 1459 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM ARRIVED FREETOWN
ON A TWNTY-FOUR HOUR STATE VISIT AFTERNOON OF
SEPTEMBER 17. AS HAS BECOME USUAL WITH IMPORTANT
VISITORS WHO ARRIVE FROM CONAKRY, THE PRIME MINISTER
ARRIVED ABOUT TWO HOURS LATE, REPORTEDLY HAVING BEEN
DELAYED BY PRESIDENT TOURE. THE RESULT WAS TWO
HOURS OF HEEL-COOLING BY THE CABINET, DIPCORPS AND
LARGE CROWDS. THERE IS MUCH GRUMBLING IN GOSL
CIRCLES OVER SEKOU TOURE'S HIGH-HANDEDNESS IN
DELAYING THE ARRIVAL OF SUCH VISITORS IN FREETOWN.
IN FACT, SOME STATE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAVE IMPLIED
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THAT SEKOU TOURE IS PURPOSELY "PUTTING DOWN" PRESI-

DENT STEVENS, TREATING HIS AS A "SMALL-BOY". WHAT-
EVER THE REASON IT HAS NOT ENHANCED GOSL-GUINEA RE-
LATIONS.

2. THE VISIT, WHICH WAS OVERSCHEDULED, IS REGARDED
BY BOTH SIDES AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. PRIME MINISTER
BURNHAM SPELLBOUND PARLIAMENT WITH HIS EXTEMPORANEOUS
ORATORY WHICH WAS NO DOUBT HIS USUAL ANTI-COLONIAL
AND IMPERIALIST SPEECH FOR SUCH OCCASIONS. IT WAS
HEAVY ON BROTHERHOOD, COMMON ORIGINS AND THE NEED
TO UNITE AGAINST CONTINUED COLONIAL EXPLOITATION BY
THE WEALTHIER COUNTRIES. "IT IS TIME THAT WE LEARN
TO COME TOGETHER AND COOPERATE....IS IT NOT SIGNIFI-
CANT THAT WHILE HANOI WAS BEING BOMBED AND HAIPHONG
MINED PRESIDENT NIXON AND PARTY SECRETARY COMRADE
BRESHNEV WERE SIGNING THEIR AGREEMENTS?...WE THERE-
FORE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD SHOULD SEEK TO FORGET
OUR DIFFERENCES AND CONCENTRATE ON EXPLOITING OUR
RESOURCES". HE OFFERED THE NATIONALIZATION OF GUYANA
BAUXITE AND THE FACT THAT THE FORMER OWNERS ARE THE
BEST CUSTOMERS FOR GUYANAN BAUXITE AS PROOF OF WHAT
THE EXPLOITED CAN DO.

3. DURING THE VISIT AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED ON
COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE, ECONOMIC AND
CIVIL AVIATION, IN FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE,
MINING AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AS WELL AS "THE EEC,
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES AND BILATERAL COOPER-
ATION". AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED TO STRENGTHEN
TIES BY ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (REPORTS
ARE THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE RESIDENT IN LAGOS).

4. THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY CONSISTING OF HIS
WIFE, THREE DAUGHTERS, CABINET MINISTERS, SOME WITH
WIVES, AND MANY OTHER RETAINERS DEPARTED FOR A
ONE-NIGHT STAY IN ABIDJAN AT ABOUT 1830 HOURS
SEPTEMBER 18. FROM ABIDJAN, STATE VISITS ARE SCHEDULED
FOR THE UAR AND SOMALIA BEFORE RETURNING TO GEORGE-
TOWN.

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